(a) whether it is a fact that on 24th January, 2007 Army personnel, beat up passengers in general compartment of Guwahati-bound North-East Express;

(b) whether this was third incident in the State of Bihar over the last few months;

(c) whether in a new year party in a hotel in Kolkata, two drunken Army Officers were arrested for molesting women;

(d) if so, what action has been taken to check reign of uniform terror; and

(e) whether any such sordid incidents have taken place in current year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Four Army personnel belonging to Northern Command alongwith two BSF personnel and three civilian personnel allegedly got into an altercation with civilian co-passengers while traveling in North East Express, from Delhi.

(b) No other such incident involving Army Personnel has come to notice from Bihar during the last six months.

(c) Two Officers were detained for investigation,

(d) and (e) There is no reign of uniform terror. In every case, action is taken as per law.

Tampering of equipment of Arjuna during trial

†955. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that effort had been made to prove war tank Arjuna made in India unsuccessful by deliberately tampering its equipments during its testing;

(b) whether military officers do not agree to the proposal of the enquiry into whole matter by D.R.D.O.;

(c) whether the manufacturing of indigenous fighter aircrafts could not yet be possible due to frequent changes in designs of Light Combat aircraft and not finalizing the design;

(d) whether a lobby in the army is in favour of the purchase for entire equipments of army from foreign countries; and

(e) If so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Main Battle Tank (MBT), Arjun were not tampered during any trials. Reliability trials have been carried out systematically by the army with successful results.

(b) There is no such proposal from DRDO.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase 1 for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was sanctioned in 1993 only for Technology Development. Later in November, 2001, FSED Phase 2 was sanctioned for manufacturing of additional prototypes and eight Limited Series Production Aircrafts. Decision was taken to change to Open System Architecture (OSA) for Avionics and Change over to R73 E missile (from R60) to make the aircraft more advanced and contemporary. There are no other changes in the design. The project is progressing well and has completed more than 933 test flights successfully with seven aircrafts under flight test phase. Indian Air Force (IAF) has already placed a commercial order on HAL for procuring 20 LCA aircrafts.

(d) and (e) There is no such information available with the Government.

Visit of Defence Minister to USA

956. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he paid a visit to United States of America recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited United State of America during 07-10 September 2008 in response to an invitation extended by Dr. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defence during his visit to India in February 2008.

(b) During the meeting between Raksha Mantri and Secretary Gates, ongoing defence cooperation matters were discussed.

Diversion of suppliers meant for Indian armed forces

957. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November, 2006 a racket of diversion/sale of Army Petrol-Diesel to private petrol pumps has been detected in Bikaner under Southern-Western command;

(b) whether racket is of 30 crore proportion;

(c) whether during the last ten years many rackets, pertaining to liquor, meat, pulses, clothes, ration, fake encounters in Army, Navy, Air Force have been unearthed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from concerned authorities in Army, Navy and Air Force.

Charges against Indian peace keepers in Congo

958. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: